

INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon

SUBJECT Labor Union Activities

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

Neutral Labor Unions

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1. On 4 February 1949 a delegation from the League of Unions, headed by Tawfiq Paghali, Secretary General of the League, met with a delegation under the leadership of Gabriel Khuri (bank employee) that represented the neutral unions (those not members of the League of Unions or the Federation of Unions). The neutral unions represented at the meeting included those of the bank employees, Electric Company employees, the union of Regie workers (Government-controlled tobacco industry), and the union of railroad employees*.
2. The representatives discussed the question of the neutral unions joining the League of Unions, in order to unify efforts to help workers. The neutral union representatives demanded half the places on the League's Council and also demanded that one of their representatives be given a high position in the League. The possible invitation to non-Federation unions to participate in the League's General Congress which is being organized to study union direction in Lebanon, the social security project, and present working conditions were also discussed.

Federation of Unions (Ittihad Niquabat al-Ummal)

3. Members of the Federation of Unions (Communist-dominated labor group) met on 7 February 1949 at the house of George Furaynah, Communist member of the Carpenters' Union, in the Ashrafiyyah Quarter of Beirut. The meeting was attended by the lawyers, Hasib Nimr, Ilyas Shahin, and Hasib Mikhayl, as well as by Mustafa 'Aris and others.
4. They discussed ways of avoiding the Lebanese governmental ban on the Federation and decided that, when it is necessary for the Federation to meet and make joint decisions, one of the member unions will hold the meeting and will invite the other unions to attend.** Decisions will have to be signed by each union separately, without mention of the name of the Federation or of the Federation's Committee. Source states that Shahin is responsible for this scheme, which Shahin claimed was legal, since each member union has legal status and, therefore, has the right to hold meetings without governmental interference.

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This document is the
CONFIDENTIAL
letter of 11 October 1964
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Architect of the United States
New Society Drive, 2000

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* ~~Comment.~~ According to ~~the neutral (non-affiliated) unions~~
25X1X6 in Lebanon are as follows:

- Union of Commercial employees
- Union of bank employees
- Union of Beirut Port Company employees
- Union of Regie workers
- Union of Socony workers
- Union of barbers' assistants
- Union of public chauffeurs
- Union of bell-boys and waiters
- Union of moving picture operators
- Union of pharmacists
- Union of bakers' assistants
- Union of Tram Company and Electricity Company workers

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** ~~Comment.~~ Source of the above comment also states that the
Federation of Unions is comprised of the following:

- Typographers' union
- Union of carpenters' workers
- Union of Duco painters
- Union of cooks
- Masons' union
- Union of workers of the Machgara tannery (Beqa')

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~~there are now sixteen unions~~
belonging to the League of Labor Unions. They are as follows:

- Union of port boatman
- Union of vegetable vendors' assistants
- Union of mechanical workers
- Union of tailors' assistants
- Union of private chauffeurs
- Union of rug-makers
- Union of tabatiers (sic)
- Union of gasoline vendors
- Union of printers and book-binders
- Union of IPC workers
- Union of confectioners
- Union of radio workers
- Union of moving picture workers
- Union of driving teachers
- Union of gardeners
- Union of office workers

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For a previous listing, see ~~Two hundred and forty-two workers not affiliated with any particular~~
union are also included in this list of unions belonging to the
League.

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